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24 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Offices in DD/I Area

SUBJECT : General Concept for DD/I Problem--Operation Alert 1959

REFERENCE : 21 October 1958 Memorandum, Subject "Operation Alert 1959: Concept", to All Offices in DD/I Area from Assistant to DD/I (Planning)

1. The damage assessment problem outlined in the referenced memorandum has been revised as a result of further study. The present intent is to use, insofar as possible, damage assessment data derived from a 1958 AFCIN nuclear strike problem as a base for the total problem.

2. The following information is subject to further revision and refinement, but is presented here for planning purposes:

a) The Situation. Following a surprise military occupation of West Berlin and a conventional (non-nuclear) ground attack on several European fronts by the USSR, the U. S. declared war against the USSR. An initial nuclear exchange between the USSR and the U. S. has been effected.

b) The nuclear strike pattern against the USSR has been made available to the CIA Relocation Site by the US Air Force and initial damage assessment data are available at the CIA Relocation Site.

c) It will be assumed that the DD/I complex at the Relocation Site has been asked by the Director to prepare for the NSC an independent intelligence estimate of the current situation.

3. Details of the problem will be provided at the Relocation Site at the time of the exercise. For planning purposes, the following outline of the Director's request is provided:

a) An assessment of current Soviet capability to launch additional nuclear attacks on the Continental U. S. is required.

b) An estimate of the economic recuperability of the USSR to support a conventional defense against US-Allied invasion

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and to supply essential civilian service to the surviving Soviet population is needed.

c) The determination of an optimum location for an invasion of the USSR considering the lay-down pattern of the US nuclear strike, the logistics problem, and the reaction of the Soviet population is required.

d) An assessment of a cease-fire offer by a group of Soviet officials and an assessment of Chinese Communist intent is necessary.

4. Summaries and estimates will be prepared in message format, ready for delivery to the message center, but each report will be clearly labelled "Exercise message not to be transmitted." The message will be delivered instead to the Office of the Acting DCI at the relocation center.

5. Although the substantive part of the exercise is to be conducted as a purely CIA problem and will not involve contact with outside agencies, the offices responsible for USIB Committees will undertake an inventory of skills in their fields of responsibility as directed in the referenced memorandum.

6. A meeting of representatives from each of the Offices of the DD/I will be held shortly to discuss the alert exercise.

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Assistant to the DD/I (Planning)

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